

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

2150 SIGOURNEY JOSSIAH -)	Case No. 06-CV-1883-LAB (JMA)
FRANCIS LEE ASSOCIATION, SUING)	
ON BEHALF OF THEODORE A.)	NOTICE AND ORDER FOR EARLY
PINNOCK AND ITS MEMBERS, et)	NEUTRAL EVALUATION CONFERENCE
al.,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
COTTAGE LJ, INC., etc., et al.)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	
)	

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that an Early Neutral Evaluation Conference will be held on January 24, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the chambers of the Honorable Jan M. Adler, United States Magistrate Judge, Room 1165, U.S. Courthouse, 940 Front Street, San Diego, California.

Pursuant to Rule 16.1(c) of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, **all named parties, all counsel, and any other person(s) whose authority is required to negotiate and enter into settlement**

1 shall appear in person at the conference, shall be prepared to
2 discuss the claims and defenses, and shall be legally
3 and factually prepared to discuss and resolve the case at the
4 Early Neutral Evaluation conference. The individual(s) present
5 at the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference with settlement
6 authority must have the unfettered discretion and authority on
7 behalf of the party to: 1) fully explore all settlement options
8 and to agree during the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference to
9 any settlement terms acceptable to the party (*G. Heileman Brewing*
10 *Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp.*, 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir.
11 1989)), 2) change the settlement position of a party during the
12 course of the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference (*Pitman v.*
13 *Brinker Int'l, Inc.*, 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003)), and
14 3) negotiate a settlement without being restricted by any
15 predetermined level of authority (*Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc.*,
16 270 F.3d 590, 596 (8th Cir. 2001)).

17 Retained outside corporate counsel shall not appear on
18 behalf of a corporation as the party who has the authority to
19 negotiate and enter into a settlement. **The failure of any**
20 **counsel, party or authorized person to appear at the Early**
21 **Neutral Evaluation Conference as required will result in the**
22 **immediate imposition of sanctions.**

23 All conference discussions will be informal, off the record,
24 privileged, and confidential.

25 Counsel for any non-English speaking parties is responsible
26 for arranging for the appearance of an interpreter at the
27 conference.

28 Based upon the Court's familiarity with cases brought

1 pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and in the
2 interest of promoting the just, efficient, and economical
3 determination of this action, the Court issues the following
4 orders:

5 1. All discovery shall be stayed in this case until after
6 the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) conference;

7 2. **Twenty-one (21) days** prior to the Early Neutral
8 Evaluation Conference, Plaintiff's(s') counsel shall lodge with
9 Magistrate Judge Adler's chambers, and serve on opposing counsel,
10 a statement not in excess of two pages, including the following
11 information:

12 (a) An itemized list of the specific issues on the
13 subject premises which are the basis of the claimed violations
14 under the Americans with Disabilities Act. A recitation of
15 regulations, by number, will not satisfy this requirement. The
16 claimed violations must be specifically described.

17 (b) A statement of the amount and category of damages
18 claimed by Plaintiff(s) in this action.

19 (c) The amount claimed for attorneys' fees and costs;
20 and

21 (d) The Plaintiff's(s') demand for settlement of the
22 case in its entirety.

23 3. **Fourteen (14) days** prior to the Early Neutral
24 Evaluation Conference, counsel for the parties shall meet and
25 confer regarding settlement of:

26 (a) The premises violations alleged; and

27 (b) Damages, costs, and attorneys' fees claims.

28 4. **Seven (7) days** prior to the Early Neutral Evaluation

1 Conference, counsel shall lodge with Magistrate Judge Adler's
2 chambers a joint statement advising the Court of the status of
3 settlement negotiations and setting forth all issues in dispute,
4 including property issues, Plaintiff's(s') alleged damages, and
5 the claim for attorneys' fees and costs, along with a description
6 of any settlement demands and/or offers exchanged.

7 5. Plaintiff's(s') counsel shall be prepared to present to
8 the Court for *in camera* review at the Early Neutral Evaluation
9 Conference documentation supporting the amount of attorneys' fees
10 and costs claimed.

11 Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply
12 to this case. In the event the case does not settle at the Early
13 Neutral Evaluation Conference, the parties shall also be prepared
14 to discuss the following matters at the conclusion of the
15 conference:

16 1. Any anticipated objections under Federal Rule of Civil
17 Procedure 26(a)(1) to the initial disclosure provisions of Rule
18 26(a)(1)(A-D);

19 2. The scheduling of the Rule 26(f) conference;

20 3. The date of initial disclosures and the date for
21 lodging the discovery plan following the Rule 26(f) conference;
22 and

23 4. The scheduling of a Case Management Conference pursuant
24 to Rule 16(b).

25 Plaintiff's(s') counsel shall give notice of the Early
26 Neutral Evaluation Conference to parties responding to the
27 complaint after December 15, 2006.

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1 Questions regarding this case may be directed to the
2 Magistrate Judge's law clerk at (619) 557-5585.

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

4 DATED: December 15, 2006

5 
6 Jan M. Adler
U.S. Magistrate Judge

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CONSENT TO TRIAL
BEFORE A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF THIS DISTRICT MAY, UPON THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES, ON FORM 1A AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, CONDUCT ANY OR ALL PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING A JURY OR NON-JURY TRIAL, AND ORDER THE ENTRY OF A FINAL JUDGMENT. COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES, SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO CONSENT.

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT YOUR DECISION TO CONSENT OR NOT TO CONSENT IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY AND SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED SOLELY TO THE CLERK OF COURT. ONLY IF ALL PARTIES CONSENT WILL THE JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE JUDGE TO WHOM THE CASE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED BE INFORMED OF YOUR DECISION.

JUDGMENTS OF THE U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES ARE APPEALABLE TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS STATUTE AND THE FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE.